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EXTREMELY URGENT

Dear Friends,

By now you have undoubtedly heard of the excellent article printed by the editor of the Palmer High School newspaper, *The Lever,* and about Will Perkins' attack on it. You have probably also heard of School board Chair Dr. Kent Olvey's reaction to it when he had not even read it (score one for the intellectual pursuit of truth). I have attached copies of the article, a second article and the *Independent* article on the subject. I am going to ask you to do several things in response.

1. Write support for the publication of this article, that shows such great humanity and understanding, to the principal at Palmer High School, Mr. Jay Engelen. Base your letter on the need this article serves and on the protection of student's right to speak under Colorado Law. Copy the letter, or write an especially tailored letter, to Dr. Olvey (see addresses enclosed). Make a phone call to Mr. Engelen (congratulations) and to Dr. Olvey (correcting) also.

2. THE SCHOOL BOARD NEXT MEETS ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th AT 6:30 p.m. CFV (WILL PERKINS) plans to address the Board. Come ready to sign up and tell your stories or the stories of your children, friends and relatives who have suffered in the schools (5 minutes). Leave your anger at home--bring no signs--just your stories. Be there by six, or even earlier, to get your name on the list of speakers.

3. Dr. Olvey made his statements, and others that feed into the stereotypes about gays and lesbians promoted by Perkins and CFV, just after Perkins went to each member of the school board and told him that he and Ed Bircham were going to come out in favor of the bond issues. Perkins then launched into his traditional anti-gay tirade--"What are we going to do about the gay invasion of the schools."

Olvey, salivating at this increased chance to pass the bonds, obviously bought Perkins' hate rhetoric, hook line and sinker, turning around and regurgitating it on this issue. He even went so far to tell people that he believed the article had been planted by gays and lesbians to destroy the bond issue. This is just more of the fear and hate stereotypes the far right uses against us. Gays and lesbians overwhelmingly are, and should be, for the bond issue and are major supporters of public education. Conversly, the Perkins' gang sees Public Education as the enemy and only uses it for political purposes. I refuse to use this issue and our kids by telling you not to vote for the bonds. **VOTE FOR 3G AND H--Our kids and their teachers need the support.** In fact, when calling the principal at Palmer before Olvey even knew about the issue, I told him that I did not want the article to become a big issue that would endanger the success of the bond questions--that we strongly favored them (just as we did last time they were presented). I told him that I was very comfortable with the question of the articles being decided within the Palmer school community, without outside pressure or threat. I also told him that I did not think our adversaries would do likewise.

4. VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE. Vote yes on the Bonds, Vote NO on 17 and give strong thought as to who you will vote for in the Tebedo/Marino senate race in District 12. That opportunity alone should get you out to vote and get you to take ten of your friends with you. By all accounts, it's a very close race that will be decided by very few votes.

5. COME TO SEE *IT'S ELEMENTARY* ON NOVEMBER 13th, not only so that you can learn but also in order that you show your support for "our kids." Besides, it's a really great film.

Addresses and phone numbers can be found on the accompanying documentation.

Frank Whitworth